FEDS CRITICIZED ON PASSPORT INCIDENT, PG6

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Celebrity Buzz

Brangie on some 'special places'
pg 22

Planet Bingo
YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
A VESPA SCOOTER & A TRIP TO ITALY!
See page 19 for details

SFU designers win prestigious website award

ONLINE MUSEUM Web designers from Simon Fraser University have won a prestigious United Nations award for a website that portrays the Fraser Valley as it was hundreds of years ago.

Ivana Filipovic, manager and art director for the project, said A Journey Into Time Immemorial beat 20,000 other e-projects from around the world to win the World Summit Award, which will be handed out in September.

"It's phenomenal because this is one of the most coveted awards," Filipovic said.

The website — an interactive online museum portraying a First Nations village — was designed in concert with SFU's Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology and the Xa:ytem Centre in Mission.

"This (award) is promoting Canadian content around the world," Filipovic said.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

Relating pg 9

Celebrating gay boyfriends

Entertainment pg 19

Mangan makes nice on release

ShareYourViews
vancouverletters@metronews.ca

EVAN AGOSTINI/GETTY IMAGES

Television personalities Ann Curry, left, Matt Lauer, Meredith Vieira and Al Roker of NBC's Today Show will be broadcasting live from Grouse Mountain during the 2010 Olympic Games.

Today Show live from Grouse during Games

'Unbeatable view of the city' helped resort nab opportunity

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

DANIEL TAM
for Metro Vancouver

Grouse Mountain will host America's most watched morning news program during the 2010 Olympic Games.

Matt Lauer, Meredith Vieira, Al Roker and Ann Curry of NBC's Today Show will be reporting live from Grouse Mountain.

It will be the four anchors' second time broadcasting from an international Olympics, with the Beijing Olympics being the first.

Grouse Mountain communications manager William Mbaho said that excitement levels are extremely high.

"We are tremendously excited that NBC is coming here," said Mbaho. "We know that this is a fantastic opportunity to showcase Vancouver and British Columbia."

Grouse Mountain's overall proximity to Vancouver and its "unbeatable views of the city" also attracted NBC's attention, said Mbaho.

"We worked long and hard to secure the interest of NBC."
Grouse Mountain's William Mbaho

"We worked long and hard to secure the interest of NBC," he said.

Grouse Mountain will be open 24 hours a day for the duration of the Games, which was of obvious interest to NBC because they will be broadcasting from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m., said Mbaho.

Grouse Mountain will offer different attractions during the Games.

"The four-season-resort nature of Grouse Mountain means that we do have activities that run year round such as zip lining," said Mbaho. "There is plenty of activity going on and this will be round the clock.

"The Olympics are an event of great magnitude and we're very excited and very proud to be part of it."

Woman accused of making false report

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

MISCHIEF An Abbotsford woman has admitted to fabricating a story in which she told police a man broke into her home and sexually assaulted her, say police.

Police said Tami Zall, 22, has been charged with public mischief for filing a false police report after officers launched an investigation into the alleged attack and released a media statement warning the public about the incident.

"Police deployed numerous resources … to conduct an initial search, and major crime detectives and forensic identification unit members were also called out," said Const. Ian MacDonald of the alleged July 29 incident.

As officers investigated the case, they found inconsistencies in parts of the woman's story, and she eventually admitted to making up the assault, say police.

"She told police that she had not been the victim of a stranger sexual assault and that the suspect and event was entirely made up," MacDonald said.

"Because the reported incident created fear in the public and a large investment of police resources was mobilized to investigate the bogus event, police … have charged (Zall)."

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Fire info line closes down
The B.C. Fire Information Line closed down yesterday as wildfire and evacuation requests have declined. The info line opened on Aug. 2 to provide reports to local governments dealing with fire-related emergencies. METRO VANCOUVER

Local

Queer Film Festival kicking off

The 21st annual Vancouver Queer Film Festival kicks off tonight at select theatres and community centres in Vancouver. The 10-day festival is the second largest of its kind in Vancouver and will feature documentaries, films, performances and parties. Tickets can be purchased at queerfilmfestival.ca. METRO VANCOUVER

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
2009 Festival of Media Awards

News in brief

SENTENCE A former paramedic has been sentenced for sexually assaulting an autistic boy in the back of an ambulance two years ago, cknw.com reports. Mark Husereau will serve his 90-day sentence on weekends. He'll be listed as a registered sex offender.

MISSING Police are asking for help finding Roderick Shand, who was last seen on July 17. A hiker has reported seeing a male matching his description on a trail heading to Eagle Lake, while another witness claims to have seen him in Cypress Park.

TV Employees of Victoria's CHEK TV could soon buy the station after it was scheduled to go off the air at the end of August, cknw.com reports.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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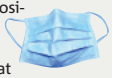
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Canada's health minister blasts opposition for playing politics with swine flu virus at **metronews.ca/canada**



Lotteries

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Extra	5, 25, 32, 62

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PHOTO COURTESY AMTRAK

A second Amtrak Cascades between Vancouver and Portland, Ore., begins service on Aug. 19.

2nd Amtrak to launch

Train to run from Aug. 19 until after Paralympics

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

A long-awaited second daily Amtrak train to Vancouver begins service next week and includes a direct round-trip to Portland.

The pilot project begins Wednesday and will run until after the Paralympics.

Stephen Pearce, Tourism Vancouver's vice-president of leisure travel, said the second Amtrak Cascades will give the local economy a boost at a time when tourism is struggling.

Plans to expand the service last summer came to a halt when the Canadian Border Services Agency determined that a daily cost-recovery fee of $1,500 was a requirement for border services.

Canada will evaluate the pilot project after the Games and will decide whether traffic is high enough to warrant the extra costs.

"It gives us an opportunity to demonstrate what this means to our local economy and to our province," said Pearce, who welcomed the evaluation.

"I think we'll find that the tax implications and revenue will certainly outweigh the concerns about additional costs.

"I'm hoping that post-Olympics this will become a fixture in our city."

Vickie Sheehan, a spokesperson for the Washington State Department of Transportation, expected that the second Amtrak Cascades would increase annual ridership by about 50,000 passengers.

The current Seattle-to-Vancouver trip annually handles 60,000 people.

In the past, Sheehan said, rail passengers from Portland had to layover in Seattle before catching a train north.

2010 road restrictions not clear: Rights group

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

COMPLAINT Metro Vancouver residents are not being given accurate information about the road closures and parking restrictions slated for the Games, the B.C. Civil Liberties Association charged yesterday.

A spokesperson for the Vancouver 2010 ISU, however, said some of the information B.C. Civil Liberties received is older than that released to the public in March, while other details are still being ironed out.

Carmen Cheung of B.C. Civil Liberties said traffic-planning documents it obtained under a Freedom of Information request include information that either contradicts or isn't included in the maps VANOC released in March.

"In some instances where the VANOC map said there'd only be parking restrictions, the materials we got ... suggest there would actually be street closures or restricted access," said Cheung.

"We're quite concerned about the lack of transparency."

The ISU's Const. Mandy Edwards said the documents obtained in the Access to Information request don't reflect current plans.

She said the most current information is provided at the ISU's "game plans," which are community information sessions, while more official updates will be released in the fall

KRISTEN THOMPSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

New bridge excites cyclist

CANADA LINE The Canada Line Pedestrian Bicycle Bridge linking Vancouver to Richmond opens tomorrow, and excitement is growing.

Arno Schortinghuis of the Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition said cyclists should enjoy a nice, quiet, relaxing ride over the bridge, as the other bridges linking the two cities are less convenient for bikers.

Schortinghuis called the Knight Street Bridge "dangerous" and said the Oak Street Bridge's sidewalks are a bit narrow for cycling.

He added that the Arthur Lange Bridge is only for the very brave.

"This will make an excellent crossing because you don't have the traffic noise and the pollution," he said.

"I think it's a great contribution to the regional cycling network."

The opening ceremony is tomorrow at 1 p.m.

DANIEL TAM/METRO VANCOUVER

Investment

- The $10-million cost is the largest investment in a bridge structure for cyclists and pedestrians in Metro Vancouver.

Canada Line employees vote to join BCGEU

LABOUR Canada Line employees have voted to join the B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union (BCGEU), the union announced yesterday.

The new 173 workers, who include attendants and control room operators, cast their votes last week.

BCGEU president Darryl Walker said in a news release the union would ensure employees have a voice in the workplace and negotiate a first contract with fair wages and benefits.

METRO VANCOUVER

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Vancouver Art Gallery looking to expand horizons

The Vancouver Art Gallery will present a special exhibition titled Expanding Horizons: Panting and Photography of American and Canadian Landscape 1860-1918. The display will run from Oct. 17 to Jan. 17 and will include more than 175 landscape paintings and photography. METRO VANCOUVER

Treat Day **Montreal Canadien**

KARL YU/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Montreal Canadiens defenceman Josh Gorges was at B.C. Children's Hospital in Vancouver yesterday to promote the seventh annual Canadian Miracle Treat Day. Proceeds from all Blizzard desserts sold today at Dairy Queens nationwide will go to Children's Miracle Network hospitals.

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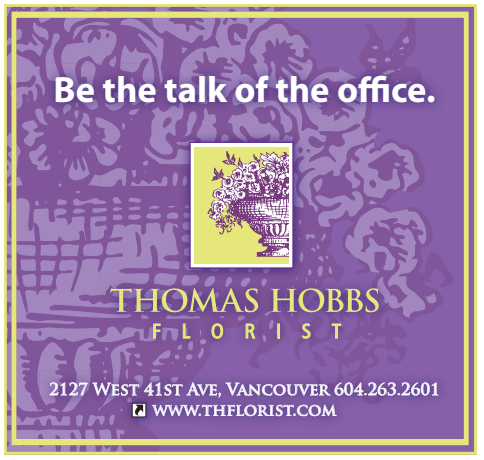

RCMP bust grow-op

KARL YU
for Metro Vancouver

North Vancouver RCMP seized about 300 marijuana plants when they busted up a large outdoor grow operation on Mount Seymour.

The grow-op was initially spotted and reported by a helicopter flying over last week. On Tuesday, members of the RCMP bike section hiked to the grow-op site with the aid of GPS.

Const. Quentin Frewing, one of the officers on scene, said it was a sophisticated setup.

"They had electronic timers that would water the plants at certain times of the day without them needing to be around," he said.

"They'd taken more than a kilometre worth of three-quarter-inch hose and hiked it up the mountain, uphill away from the marijuana plants, and put the end inside a creek and let gravity do the rest of the work — they didn't need to have a generator to pump water for water pressure."

Frewing said that the number of outdoor grow operations has decreased but they are still around, especially in less densely populated areas.

"We haven't heard about one this large in North Vancouver for quite some time," he said.

HANDOUT

Const. Quentin Frewing, left, and Const. Greg Aylett pose with pot plants seized at an elaborate grow-op in Mount Seymour.

ICE units rescue minor

KARL YU
for Metro Vancouver

ARREST RCMP Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) units from two provinces worked together to bring down an alleged child porn distributor.

Const. Rosiane Racine of B.C.'s ICE unit said officers from Kelowna RCMP and B.C. ICE raided a house in Kelowna on July 2 and arrested a man on a number of charges, including possession of child pornography.

"There was a strong suspicion that a child might be at risk." Const. Rosiane Racine

She said that a child who was at risk of abuse was identified in the investigation as well.

"That child is known by us to be safe," Racine said.

Racine can't divulge much information about the girl, who is under the age of 10.

She said information from Saskatchewan's ICE unit aided the investigation greatly.

"Based on some of the information that Saskatchewan ICE received, there was a strong suspicion that a child might be at risk, being abused," Racine said.

Homeless group to donate rental fees from Games

OLYMPICS A non-profit organization that attempts to tackle homelessness by finding Vancouverites willing to open some rooms to visitors who are in town for the Olympics launched in Vancouver yesterday.

Home For the Games will donate half of its rental fees to the Streetohome Foundation and Covenant House Vancouver charities. Charles Montgomery, founder of Home For the Games, hopes to raise $750,000 by fees and donations.

Mayor Gregor Robertson called it a "great example of the positive legacies we can create from the 2010 Winter Games."

METRO VANCOUVER

B.C. SPCA rescues cats from 'animal hoarder'

NEGLECT The B.C. SPCA rescued 94 cats and kittens from an "animal hoarder" in Nanaimo on Monday.

According to B.C. SPCA Const. Tina Heary, many of the cats were in "various states of neglect and distress."

Some dead cats and kittens were also found in the owner's freezer.

"Many of the cats needed immediate veterinary care," said Heary in a press release. "This is a sad case where the owner was an animal hoarder and did not take the necessary steps to relieve the suffering of the animals."

METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

WITNESS The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team is looking for a woman who may have witnessed the murder of Sam McGowan in Surrey last week. The woman found and returned a cellphone to its rightful owner close to where McGowan was stabbed.

BOMB TransLink is using Tuesday's pipe bomb threat at Metrotown to help them plan for the 2010 Games, cknw.com reports. TransLink communications director Ken Hardie stressed public safety as more than 100,000 people will use transit during the Olympics.

RATES ICBC's optional rates will be reduced by an average of three per cent after the organization saw a $22-million increase in profits during the first half of 2009, cknw.com reports. Basic rates, however, will be unaffected.

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Two boys and a woman struck by lightning

Two boys aged four and six and the 26-year-old mother of one of them were struck by lightning yesterday in Brampton, Ont. The boys were taken to a Toronto hospital and one was reported to be fighting for his life. The mother is in serious condition. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canada

Russians sneak in

The Department of National Defence has sent a surveillance plane to waters off the East Coast to monitor a pair of nuclear-powered Russian submarines in the area. The attack subs were first spotted off the U.S. state of Georgia. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kenya case deals blow to Tories

The federal government was accused of racism yesterday in the scandal over a Canadian woman in Kenya.

It emerged that officials had falsely accused the woman of being an impostor, an act that led to her arrest and jailing.

Critics rounded on the Conservatives with unusual ferocity over the bizarre case — which could damage the party's efforts to capture more votes from influential ethnic communities at the next election.

The story started in May when a passport officer at Nairobi airport refused to let Suaad Hagi Mohamud board a plane on the grounds that she did not look enough like her passport photo.

For reasons still unclear, the Canadian embassy annulled her passport and then told Kenyan authorities she was an impostor.

Mohamud, 31, who spent a week in jail, took two months before she could persuade Ottawa to agree to a DNA test that proved her identity.

Mohamud is from ethnically diverse Toronto, a key electoral battleground where the Tories have put in a major effort to win seats.

"Something is fundamentally wrong when we can't count on the Canadian government to stand up for Canadians. I'm not sure I can put it any more directly than that," an unhappy Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty told reporters yesterday. REUTERS

Tories being fickle over who gets help abroad?

POLITICS Advocates and lawyers for Canadian citizens who get into tight situations abroad are accusing the Conservative government and its ministers of fickleness.

Tory ministers appear to choose, apparently at random, which Canadians get access to help and which ones must battle to clear their names, the critics say.

In contrast to the few citizens abroad who do get Ottawa's ear, dozens of pleas go unanswered, critics say.

"What I find most disturbing is that Canadians are possibly being judged in absentia by an Orwellian jury comprised of the Canadian cabinet," said Liberal MP Dan McTeague.

Ottawa lawyer Yavar Hameed suggests Ottawa has an ever-present fear of being cast as a security threat to the United States.

The most troubling decisions by the government inevitably involve security questions, Hameed said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Beijing At the top table, three gurus of high finance

DAVID GRAY/REUTERS

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty gestures in Beijing yesterday as he sits next to the Governor of the Bank of Canada, Mark Carney, and Julie Dickson, Canada's superintendent of financial institutions. They were taking part in a news conference at the Canadian Financial Forum. The Canadians hope to spur Chinese investment in Canada's resource and financial service sectors.

UN hits out at Canada over visas

The United Nations refugee agency is urging Ottawa not to use visa restrictions as a way of reducing the number of asylum seekers.

The demand comes after Canada imposed travellers' visas on visitors from Mexico and the Czech Republic.

"What is important is that the issue of access to protection for those fleeing persecution is given due regard and attention," Abraham Abraham, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees representative in Canada, said yesterday.

The 1951 UN Refugee Convention, to which Canada is a signatory, assures "access to territory" for individuals with justified needs. REUTERS

Refugees or visitors?

Czechs and Mexicans have found Canada a magnet

- In 2008, 9,400 Mexicans applied for asylum in Canada, triple the number in 2005. Only 11 per cent were accepted..
- According to official figures, 15,000 Czechs and 270,000 Mexicans visited Canada last year.

Chalk River down until spring 2010, say officials

ISOTOPES Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. officials yesterday said, according to CBC News Online, that Ontario's idled Chalk River nuclear reactor will not be making medical isotopes until spring 2010.

Federal Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq and Natural Resources Minister Lisa Raitt, in a late statement yesterday, said that they were "very disappointed" at the announcement. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Name change wrangle may split the NDP

POLITICS Jack Layton could be facing a divided party for this weekend's federal NDP convention in Halifax.

A debate over whether to re-name the party by dropping the "New" from the New Democratic Party is a hot-button issue.

Layton told Metro yesterday he isn't taking a stance either way.

"This is the kind of thing that is up to our delegates to decide," said Layton. METRO CANADA

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Man arrested in connection with London jewel heist 7

Police have arrested a man in connection with the theft of $73 million US worth of jewelry, one of the biggest heists in British history. The 50-year-old man has been released on bail. REUTERS

World

Iran rejects claims of rape

IranCrisis

The speaker of Iran's parliament yesterday rejected as "baseless" an opposition leader's accusation that moderates had been raped in jail following their detention in unrest linked to June's disputed presidential poll.

"Based on parliament's investigations, detainees have not been raped or sexually abused in Iran's Kahrizak and Evin prisons," Iran state television quoted Ali Larijani as saying.

Defeated moderate candidate Mehdi Karoubi said some protesters, both men and women, had been raped in prison.

Many of the post-election detainees were held in south Tehran's Kahrizak prison, built to house people breaching vice laws.

At least three people died in custody there. Rights group Amnesty International urged Iran to allow international observers to monitor the trials of more than 100 people accused of involvement in the protests that followed the election.

Washington, its European allies and leading Iranian reformers have rejected the mass trials as a "show." State radio said 215 of Iran's 290 lawmakers urged Ahmadinejad to reconsider ties with the United States, France and Britain for their "interference" in Iran's state matters. REUTERS

Vodka causing 'national disaster'

RUSSIA Russian President Dmitry Medvedev yesterday called time on the country's heavy vodka drinkers, saying alcoholism had become a "national disaster."

Medvedev said measures aimed at reducing binge drinking had not reduced alcoholism in Russia, where downing vast amounts of vodka at one sitting is an integral part of national culture.

Medvedev said he was shocked by official data showing the average Russian drank 18 litres of pure alcohol each year.

"When you convert that into vodka bottles, it is simply mind-boggling," Medvedev said.

Medical professionals believe alcohol related diseases cause around half of all deaths of Russians between the ages of 15 and 54. REUTERS

California **Gay marriage fight goes on**

LUCY NICHOLSON/REUTERS

Gay couple Ethan Collings, left, and spouse Stephen Abate hug as they celebrate their one-year wedding anniversary in West Hollywood. A California gay rights advocacy group, Equality California, said yesterday that it needed three years to build a coalition to repeal the ban on same-sex marriage in the state, creating a rift in the movement with those who want to go back to the polls next year while anger is fresh.

News in brief

AFGHANISTAN Some 400 U.S. Marines and 100 Afghan army soldiers staged a helicopter assault yesterday in the mountains of Helmand province in Afghanistan, part of an effort to secure Taliban-held areas before Aug. 20 elections. Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman told reporters in Washington the force, part of the 10,000-strong U.S. Marine Expeditionary Brigade sent to Helmand, was "engaged in a fight, they are meeting some resistance." The fighting coincided with the wounding of two Associated Press journalists embedded with a U.S. military unit in a roadside bombing late Tuesday near Kandahar.

TAXES UBS AG and the U.S. and Swiss governments have agreed to settle a dispute over whether the Swiss bank should be forced to disclose the names of 52,000 wealthy American clients suspected of tax evasion. Lawyers involved in the case say the settlement could involve the disclosure to authorities of 3,000 to perhaps more than 10,000 names of American clients suspected of using offshore accounts to evade taxes. Authorities believe the 52,000 UBS clients may be hiding nearly $15 billion US in assets. REUTERS

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Border guards to launch Everest record bid

A team of Indian border guards will try to scale Mount Everest next month and ski down to a base camp in a world record attempt. The 28-member team will climb Mount Everest from the South Col and scale the 8,850-metre summit before skiing down to the nearest camp. REUTERS

Pakistani preachers killed in Somalia

Masked gunmen killed seven Pakistani preachers at a mosque in Somalia's Puntland region yesterday, local officials said.

Puntland is a base for pirates in the Gulf of Aden, but has been more peaceful than the rest of the failed Horn of Africa state, which Western security agencies say is a haven for militants plotting attacks in the region and beyond.

Residents said the shooting took place after early morning prayers at the mosque in Galkayo town and targeted a group of 25 mostly Pakistani sheikhs who arrived in the semi-autonomous region Tuesday.

"Six Pakistanis died on the spot while another Pakistani died from his injuries in hospital. These men are Islamist preachers from Karachi, Pakistan," Galkayo chairman Hussein Abdullahi told Reuters.

"Puntland forces have now surrounded the area around the mosque to protect the other sheikhs."

Somalia has been torn by civil war since 1991, and the government controls only small pockets of the rubble-strewn capital of Mogadishu. REUTERS

Recent clashes

- In the latest clashes in Mogadishu, at least six people were killed as gunmen from two pro-government factions exchanged heavy weapons fire.

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UN says chief did not congratulate Ahmadinejad

CONTROVERSY The United Nations said yesterday that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon did not congratulate Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on his contested re-election, reversing a previous statement.

Asked Tuesday if Ban had sent a congratulatory letter to Ahmadinejad, UN spokeswoman Marie Okabe said "yes." But when reporters asked her for details yesterday, she said it could not be at all construed as congratulating Ahmadinejad.

"It is not accurate to refer to this as a congratulatory letter," she said, adding the UN would not release the contents of the letter. Okabe said Ban's letter "takes advantage of the occasion of the inauguration to express the hope that Iran and the United Nations will continue to co-operate closely in addressing regional and global issues." REUTERS

World Bank vows to aid Rwanda

ECONOMY World Bank President Robert Zoellick pledged yesterday to boost development aid to Rwanda to help rebuild the country ripped apart by genocide.

Growth

- Rwanda has been hit hard by the collapse in global trade after years of growth, which will likely be slashed to five per cent this year.

The tiny landlocked east African state is reviving its economy with spending on tourism, agriculture and mining after 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and politically moderate Hutus were killed over a 100-day period in 1994.

Reforms and new programs have turned the nation around in the 15 intervening years. REUTERS

News in brief

LOCKERBIE No decision has yet been taken on allowing the former Libyan agent convicted of the 1988 Lockerbie bombing to be freed from prison, the Scottish government said yesterday. Scotland's justice minister was still considering applications for the release of Abdel Basset al Megrahi, who is 57 and has terminal cancer.

CHINA The U.S. has chalked up a big win at the World Trade Organization against Chinese market barriers that encourage piracy of U.S. books, music and films, U.S Trade Representative Ron Kirk said yesterday. REUTERS

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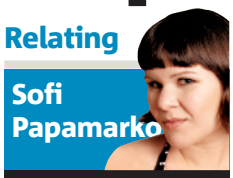
Comment

In praise of The Gay Boyfriend

Relating



Sofi Papamarko

metronews.ca/papamarko

I have a lot of gay male friends. I'm not exactly sure how I became such a fruit fly, but it probably has to do with the fact that I enjoy being around brilliant, interesting, quirky and hilarious people. And there happen to be an inordinate number of gay men who fit the bill.

When a gay male in your life transcends the confines of ordinary friendship, they become something known as The Gay Boyfriend.

I am lucky enough to have three.

I met Ben in university. He taught me about wine and men and crème brûlée and the Pet Shop Boys. Ben has the body of a Russian gymnast, but the eyes and smile of a mischievous child on Christmas morning. He recently moved to Montreal, for work and for love. My life will be decidedly less colourful without him around.

I met Tony during grad school. He's smart, fun and absurdly well read. We share a fascination with French culture and a top-secret love of Evita. He is my karaoke life partner (nobody does Summer Nights like we do Summer Nights). With his artfully mussed hair and routine self-deprecation, Tony reminds me of an anime hero who hasn't yet realized his superpower.

Last but not least is Phil, my work spouse. He makes me laugh until I cry on a regular basis and transforms the daily grind into a delight. He has a French bulldog named Francine. He sings soaring solos in a gospel choir. He has a laugh unlike any you have ever heard. He is one of the best dudes I know.

There are several things that Gay Boyfriends offer that The Boyfriend and/or The Straight Male Platonic Friend often cannot:

1. They find sports boring and would never force you to watch a game.

2. They are more emotional and intuitive than most straight men, so they do not judge you for your occasional "girl moments."

3. They revere Madonna as a demigod (The Gay Boyfriend downloaded her new single Celebration eons before you did. For the record.)

4. They find levity and hope in the most depressing of scenarios.

5. When they pour you a drink, there is no ulterior motive.

6. They have neat shoes.

Gay Boyfriends everywhere, consider this your valentine. Bless your brave, brash, jovial, generous, vibrant, filthy, fierce and utterly fabulous hearts.

You are adored.

Cue Celebration.

Sofi Papamarko is a 20-something writer based in Toronto. Her heroes include Desmond Morris and Nancy Sinatra.

Views

Lashing out at Sudanese 'fashion police'

GlobalView

Mona Eltahawy

metronews.ca/globalview

What would you do if you were out with friends at a coffee shop, the police arrived and arrested you all for being "indecently dressed" — you're wearing trousers — and decided your punishment was a public flogging: 40 lashes each?

Sudanese journalist Lubna Hussein went head-to-head with her country's outrageous "dress code" law in style. She insisted on a trial (10 of the women arrested with her accepted a fine and flogging), showed up in the Khartoum court wearing the very same trousers that got her arrested in the first place and — the cherry on the cake — she sent out 500 invitations to journalists and activists to come and watch.

Dozens of women, many in trousers, and several men turned out to support Hussein and were promptly tear-gassed and beaten by police. Any doubt on how far Hussein has upended the system in Sudan was laid to rest when the Sudanese regime barred her from travelling to Lebanon earlier this week to give a television interview on her trial.

Hussein's trial resumes Sept. 7.

For years the Sudanese regime had played a cheap game of flaunting its "Islamic principles" over the bodies of women. It has flogged thousands of both Muslim women and non-Muslim southern Sudanese women for supposedly violating Islamic principles.

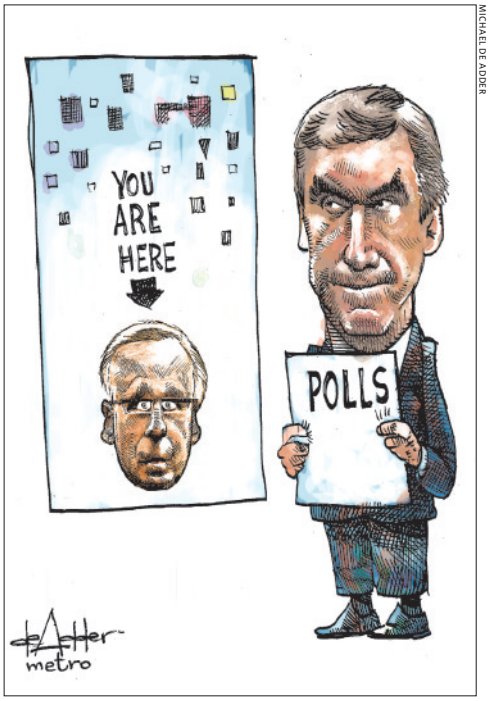
Many silently endured the misogyny and injustice; they were poor, socially vulnerable or ashamed. But Hussein has brilliantly used her position and clout to fight back. She is a journalist who knows all about shaping the narrative. She was also a press officer for the United Nations, a position that could have earned her immunity from charges and a flogging, but she chose to resign and fight instead.

And most importantly she is a Muslim woman who knows that a flogging for wearing trousers is sheer and utter nonsense — she has said she was ready to "receive (even) 40,000 lashes" if that's what it takes to abolish the indecency law.

A Sudanese friend who recently visited Khartoum told me she'd seen friends and relatives dressed in T-shirts and trousers at parties she went to without consequence, an indication the regime had turned down some of its "Islamic" zeal.

Hussein's case could be one of police gone wild, thinking they could get away with what is business as usual — teach a group of women "morals." But they didn't reckon they had to deal with a media-savvy woman, a pride to Sudan's feminist movement and women everywhere.

Mona Eltahawy is an award-winning Egyptian-born commentator and public speaker on Arab and Muslim issues. She reported on the Middle East for 10 years before moving to the U.S.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Bell, Telus merger within two years 'very likely,' say analysts

A merger between Bell and Telus is looking "very likely" within the next two years, according to a report from RBC Capital Markets, CBC News Online reports. The impending launch of new cellphone companies, customers ditching their landlines, and saturation of Internet and television services are eroding growth opportunities for both companies. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Microsoft, Nokia join forces

Microsoft Corp. and Nokia announced an alliance yesterday to bring business software to smartphones to counter the dominance of Research in Motion Ltd.'s BlackBerry.

The alliance between the world's largest software company and cellphone maker means the latest versions of Microsoft's Office applications, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint and messaging, will be available on a range of Nokia handheld devices, which make up 45 per cent of the smartphone market.

The companies, at one time fierce rivals in the mobile business, expect to offer Nokia phones running Office sometime next year.

"This is giving some of our competitors — let's spell it out, RIM — a run for their money," said Nokia executive vice-president Robert Andersson, in an interview. "I don't think BlackBerry has seen the kind of competition we can provide them now."

RIM's BlackBerry created the market for mobile e-mail, and its dominant position in the corporate sector, especially in North America, has protected it from Nokia's attempts to crack the market in recent years. REUTERS

Competition

- The alliance also aims to counter Google's recent move into free online software, aimed at Microsoft's business customers, and the growing popularity of Apple's iPhone device.

Market rebound lifts CPP assets

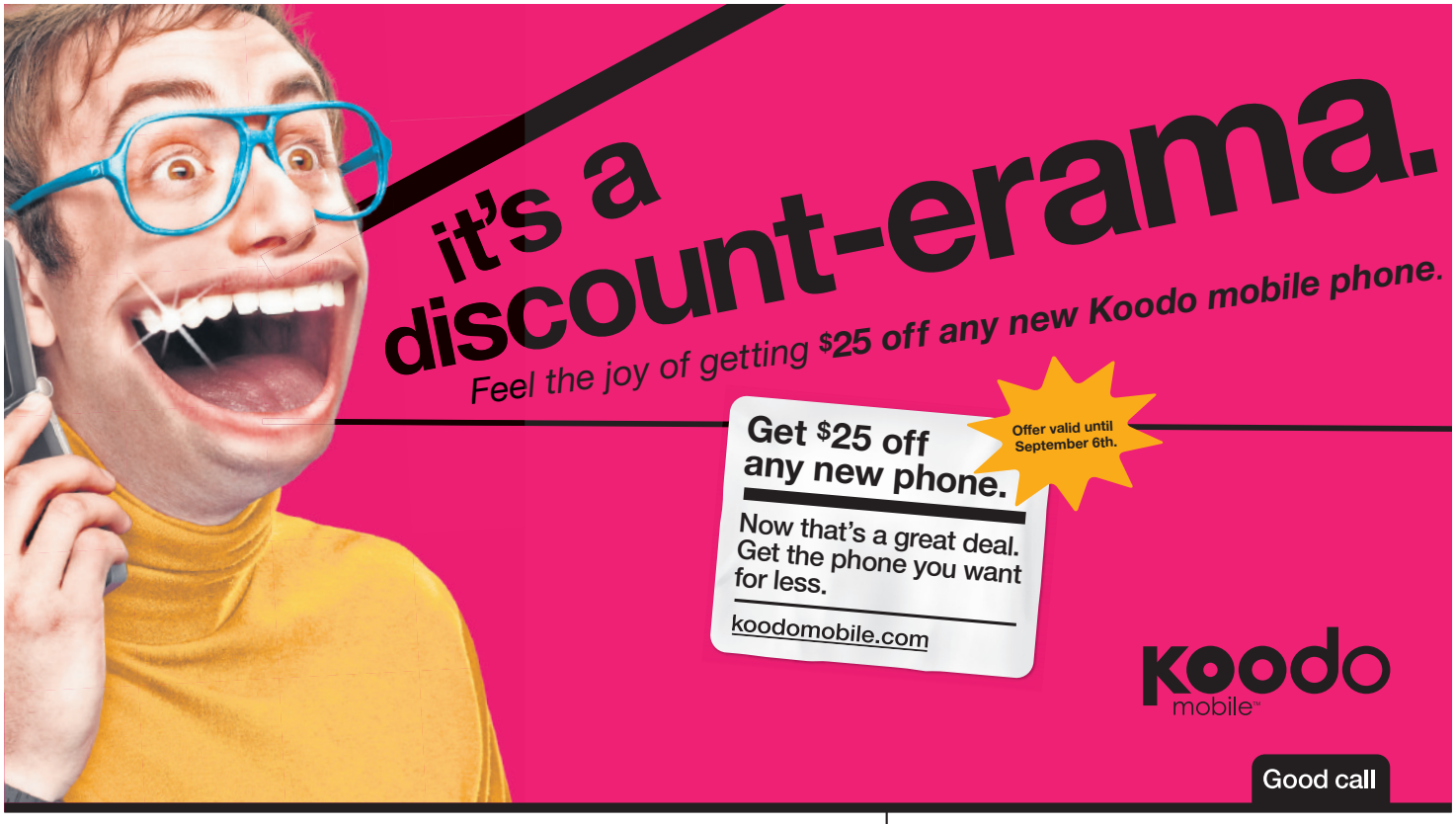
PENSIONS Canada Pension Plan Investment Board said yesterday the value of its assets under management rose 10.5 per cent in its first quarter, reversing big losses in 2009, as global markets rebounded.

The CPP board, which manages Canada's national pension fund, said it had assets of $116.6 billion at June 30, the end of the first quarter of its fiscal 2010. That's up from $105.5 billion at its 2009 yearend in March and a sharp reversal of the 14 per cent loss in asset values in fiscal 2009. REUTERS

Business in brief

DEFICIT Canada's trade deficit came in at a much smaller than expected $55 million in June, but analysts said the shrinkage reflected increased energy exports and that underlying trade weakness persisted and will eat into second-quarter gross domestic product figures.

MACHINERY Finning International, the world's largest Caterpillar equipment dealer, said yesterday its quarterly profit fell 29 per cent as the weak economy sapped demand. It said its second-quarter net income was $47.8 million, compared with $67.2 million a year earlier. REUTERS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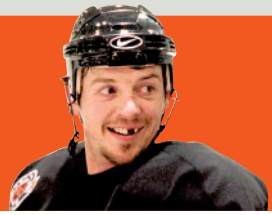
Kane to appear before grand jury
The clash with a cabbie that landed Chicago Blackhawks forward Patrick Kane behind bars in his hometown of Buffalo is going before a grand jury tomorrow. The panel can then decide to bring charges or drop the case. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports



Fleury eyeing comeback

Theoren Fleury, left, is reportedly ready to resume his NHL career. TSN has reported on its website that Fleury will attempt a comeback at the age of 41. The native of Oxbow, Sask., hasn't played in the NHL since 2003, when he suited up for the Chicago Blackhawks. Fleury has 455 goals and 633 assists in 1,084 career NHL games. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

ERIC MILLER/REUTERS

Tiger Woods hits to the practice green during a practice day ahead of the 2009 PGA Championship beginning today at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn.

Temper control a work in progress for Woods

GOLF Tiger Woods prides himself on being able to control every aspect of his game, apart from an occasional loose tongue.

The 14-time major champion is the most visible player of his generation on television and fans have often seen him cursing or slamming clubs after hitting a poor shot.

"It is what it is," world No. 1 Woods told reporters while preparing for today's opening round of the U.S. PGA Championship at Hazeltine National.

"Unfortunately I do make mistakes and I hit bad shots and I say bad things at times. I don't mean to, it just comes out. It's not something I try and do. It just happens.

"Have I been trying to get better at that? Yeah, my entire life," said the American, who won his 70th PGA Tour title at the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational on Sunday.

"But it happens from time to time and I'm not the only person that does it." REUTERS

Nadal wins first match of return

TENNIS Rafael Nadal's first singles match after a lengthy injury layoff ended abruptly yesterday when the Spaniard's Davis Cup teammate David Ferrer retired hurt during their second-round encounter at the Rogers Cup in Montreal.

Sidelined for more than two months with tendonitis in both knees, Nadal's tender joints were in the spotlight for his first singles match since his shock loss to Sweden's Robin Soderling in the fourth round of the French Open in May.

But it was Ferrer's left knee that became the talking point after he abruptly retired when trailing 4-3 in the opening set.

Having betrayed little sign of discomfort, and having dominated play at times against his Davis Cup teammate, Ferrer's withdrawal prompted gasps and groans from the centre court crowd.

The 27-year-old world No. 19 said he had aggravated a knee injury that had troubled him before Wimbledon. REUTERS

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Aiming for the podium

Canadians hoping for a breakthrough at canoe-kayak championships

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

With Lake Banook as its backdrop, Canada's sprint canoe-kayak team is hoping for a historic weekend.

Canada, represented by its largest team yet at the world championships starting today in Dartmouth, N.S., is gunning for a top-three finish in the overall team point standings and is quietly hoping to knock off either Hungary or Germany, traditionally the powerhouse nations at this event.

"One of our goals is some day to be the top (canoe-kayak) nation in the world," said national team head coach Graham Barton. "This is one of our opportunities to take that step."

"One of our goals is some day to be the top (canoe-kayak) nation in the world. This is one of our opportunities to take that step."
Graham Barton, national team head coach

Canada's record 42 athletes are among the 1,000 participants from more than 70 countries on Lake Banook this weekend. It will mark the first time Canada has an athlete entered in every event. Traditionally, financial concerns and a focus on the Olympics mean smaller teams are sent to worlds.

While Hungary and Germany are usually the top two nations, Canada battles it out with countries such as Poland, Russia and Spain for the final spot on the podium.

At the worlds, Canada often finds itself in the fifth- and sixth-place range, while it placed third at the Athens Olympics in 2004 and fourth at the Beijing Games last summer.

"Our team is strong throughout," said Halifax canoeist Richard Dalton. "We're going to have chances to be in the top five or on the podium in a lot of different events.

"Our team is extremely strong and we're well able to go out and compete with those big countries."

The worlds were also held on Lake Banook in 1997 and they will bring plenty of excitement to Dartmouth before their conclusion Sunday. Virtually every member of the Canadian team has family and friends in town to cheer them on — and that's especially true for the 11 athletes from Nova Scotia.

"Being at home has given us an extra level of comfort and confidence," the 30-year-old Dalton said. "Everyone's in peak shape and we're ready to go for it."

Sports in brief

COYOTES The NHL is requesting that the judge in the bankruptcy proceedings of the Phoenix Coyotes reject the proposed deposition of Toronto Maple Leafs president Richard Peddie. Jim Balsillie's group wants answers about the Leafs' role in the possible relocation of the Coyotes to Hamilton.

TENNIS Former world No. 1 Kim Clijsters was one of three players awarded wild cards yesterday into the main draw of the Rogers Cup women's tennis tournament. Canadians Stephanie Dubois and Valerie Tetrault were also awarded wild cards for the main draw, which begins Monday in Toronto.

BASEBALL With the New York Mets fading from contention, the team has cut ticket prices up to 50 per cent for some seats for 13 of its 26 remaining home games. Four other games have 40 per cent reductions, and three games have 33-34 per cent cuts.

SOCCER Milan is keen to take David Beckham back on loan from the Los Angeles Galaxy in January, the England midfielder's spokesman said yesterday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Crate&Barrel

A very literal take on a store name

Crate and Barrel was founded in 1962 by newlyweds Carole and Gordon Segal. They would import high-quality items from Europe and, with no budget for fixtures, display them on the crates and barrels that they were shipped in. Thus, the name. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Metro Homes

Crate in Calgary

This fall, Crate and Barrel will open its second Canadian location, in Calgary's Southcentral mall. The Chicago-based retailer's first international store opened in Toronto in 2008. "We are thrilled to open Crate and Barrel in Calgary — a dynamic and growing market," says Barbara Tuft, CEO and president. See Crateandbarrel.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Sterling shines on Burke Mountain

Vancouver style comes to Coquitlam

Suite **Talk**

A new 40-home community in Coquitlam offers Vancouver-style architecture in deep lots not usually found in larger cities.

Inspired by West Side home designs found in Kerrisdale and Shaughnessy, Sterling sits on the foothills of Burke Mountain across from Leigh Elementary School and near a new neighbourhood park.

"The whole idea behind the Sterling is to create a green urban environment that facilitates community," said Dale Barron, president of Morningstar Homes, which developed the project.

Homes at Sterling range from 2,416- to 3,185-square-feet. They use natural elements like stone and wood to enhance exteriors and highlight the surrounding Coast Mountains. They also have large porches, peaked front roof accents, double garages and fully landscaped yards. The lots are about 20 feet deeper than those traditionally found in the city.

All plans include four bedrooms, gourmet kitchens with granite counters, Kohler plumbing fixtures and eco-friendly flooring and carpeting.

Prices start around $550,000 and all homes were built according to Morningstar's GreenStar program, which uses environmentally friendly technology and products.

FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Interested?

- The sales centre is at 3412 Wilkie Avenue in Coquitlam, just off Victoria Drive at the base of the new Burke Mountain development.

Seen here are some shots of Morningstar Homes' Sterling home community in Coquitlam.

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More online
For the archives of Sylvia Putz' Homescape column, visit Metronews.ca.

Urban naturalization

HomeScape
Sylvia Putz
metronews.ca/homescape

When it rains, it pours. And when it rains a lot, a lot can go wrong. Erosion of slopes, ruts, driveway pavers loosened and undermined. Gravel washed away. And water seeping into the basement doesn't help things either.

That doesn't even take into consideration the larger environmental damage caused by intensive bursts of dirty urban runoff. It courses down paved streets and concrete sidewalks, picking up oil, litter and dog waste along the way, coalescing quickly into a torrent, and ultimately overwhelming sewers and urban water treatment capacities.

And when the urban sewage and storm water system is inundated with more water than it can handle, storm water can mix with sewage underneath the older parts of the city, and the mess can and often does end up in lakes, river and oceans.

So, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that it really does make sense to reduce the amount of water that flows into city sewers.

But how might the average urban dweller do this? For one, by naturalizing the urban space. Here's some pointers:

- **MINIMIZE IMPERMEABLE SURFACING:** Use eco-friendly pavers or wooden or recycled material decking that allows water to drain through instead of running off. Or, rather than paving over the whole driveway, consider the old-fashioned two-track method with vegetation in the middle. Or make sidewalks narrower if you are redoing them.
- **PLANTING:** When you plant, use a tri-level canopy approach, if possible, to soften rainfall and allow gradual absorption of water.
- **SOIL:** If you've got soil with a high clay content, augment it with sand and organic material. Well-balanced soils absorb water much more readily than clay-rich soils, which drain water very slowly.
- **EAVES:** Disconnect your eavestrough to reduce water going into city sewers as runoff.
- **RAIN BARRELS:** To handle excessive water flow from an eavestrough, consider a rain barrel or cistern for watering at dryer times
- **RUNOFF:** For runoff that must drain onto your property, consider a rain garden, which is a garden specially designed to accept, infiltrate and clean water storm water, or a vegetated swale or ditch meant to help absorb and filter runoff. Infiltration trenches or soakaway pits lined with a foot or so of gravel can also help.
- **PLANTS:** Use native plants wherever possible, since exotic plants usually require more care, more water and possibly, more chemical first aid.
- **CHEMICALS:** Minimize chemicals, such as salt, deicers, oil, fertilizer and pesticides on the land you manage because it will pollute runoff. Fix auto leaks and wash your car at a car wash rather than on the street.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

Lawncare

- Grass is not considered to be "naturalized" because it usually requires a lot of water, but if you must have a lawn, opt for natural lawncare. That means aerate, leave grass clippings on the lawn and cut grass higher.

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Canadian Gardening

Fresh

Green-thumb approved — Canadian Gardening's guide to this summer's most colourful accents

Produced by Lara McGraw, photography by Edward Pond

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Contoured Kneeling Pad, $23.50, Lee Valley Tools

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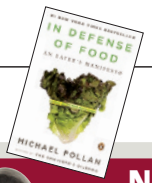
Defense has the best offence

In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto by Michael Pollan remains at the top of the bestseller's list for cookbooks on Amazon.ca. Gordon Ramsay's Healthy Appetite was second and Julie and Julia: My Year of Cooking Dangerously was third. METRO NEWS SERVICES



Food

Shop for plums with good colour; a full, smooth, relatively heavy feel; and a distinctively "plummy," sweet fragrance.
CANADIANLIVING.COM

No leakage, please

Avoid fruit with shrivelled skin, bruises, brown spots or any sign of leakage.

EDITOR: NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Canadian Living magazine is on sale now!

Canadian Living recipe of the month

Bottoms up for plum cake

online

For more Tested-Till-Perfect recipes, visit canadianliving.com

Pickerel Burger with Warm Onions

MAKES 4 SERVINGS
PREP/COOK TIME: 45 MINUTES

INGREDIENTS:
- 1 lb (500 g) boneless skinless pickerel fillets
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) all-purpose flour
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 green onion, chopped
- 2 tsp (10 ml) each chopped capers and lemon juice
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) each salt and pepper
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) cornmeal
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) vegetable oil
- 4 hamburger buns

Warm onions:
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) each vegetable oil and mustard seeds
- 1 sweet onion, sliced
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) cider vinegar
- 1 tsp (5 ml) packed brown sugar

METHOD:

Bake pickerel on foil-lined baking sheet in 350°F (180°C) oven until fish flakes easily when tested, about 15 minutes. Pat dry and let cool.

In bowl, flake fish with fork; mix in flour, egg, onion, capers, lemon juice, salt and pepper. Shape into 4 patties; refrigerate for 10 minutes. Coat patties in cornmeal.

Warm onions: Meanwhile, in skillet, heat oil over medium heat; cook mustard seeds and onion until softened, 3 minutes. Add vinegar and sugar; cook until evaporated, 5 minutes.

In clean skillet, heat oil over medium heat; fry burgers, turning once, until golden, about 6 minutes. Serve on buns along with onions.

Plum Upside-Down Cake

Sliced plums in a butterscotch sauce top this tender cake. Spelt flour, an ancient cereal grain, gives it a nutty hint.

MAKES 9 SERVINGS

INGREDIENTS:
- 12 oz (375 g) large firm ripe prune or purple plums (3 to 6 plums)
- ½ cup (125 ml) packed brown sugar
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) butter, melted

Cake:
- 2/3 cup (150 ml) butter, softened
- 1 cup (250 ml) packed brown sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 tsp (5 ml) grated orange rind
- 1 tsp (5 ml) vanilla
- 1 1/4 cups (300 ml) all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) spelt flour
- 2 tsp (10 ml) baking powder
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) cinnamon
- Pinch each nutmeg and salt
- 2/3 cup (150 ml) milk

METHOD:

Halve and pit plums. Cut each into 6 wedges; set aside. In bowl, whisk sugar with butter until combined. Spread in greased 8-inch (2 L) square metal cake pan; decoratively cover with plums.

Cake: In large bowl, beat butter with sugar until fluffy. Beat in eggs, 1 at a time. Beat in orange rind and vanilla.

In separate bowl, whisk together all-purpose and spelt flours, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt. Stir into butter mixture alternately with milk, making 3 additions of dry ingredients and 2 of milk. Spoon over plums, smoothing top.

Bake in 350°F (180°C) oven until golden and cake tester inserted in centre comes out clean, about 55 minutes. Let cool in pan on rack for 10 minutes.

Run knife around edges of cake; invert onto plate. Scrape any remaining syrupy base over plums. Serve warm or at room temperature.

YVONNE DUIVENVOORDEN PHOTO

Plum Upside-Down Cake.

LiquidAssets

Peter Rockwell

metronews.ca/liquidassets

Good ol' G&T

I discovered cocktails during my university days and worked my way through a series of mixed drink phases.

I started with martinis (too boozy), moved on to brown cows (too rich), dabbled in Caesars (still do once in a while), but lingered the longest with the good old gin and tonic.

It's been years since I had a proper G & T so it was a kick to rediscover the classic warm weather tipple this summer during a tasting of a variety of the clear juniper berry-based spirits.

Unlike vodka, the personality of each gin is defined by how it combines juniper with its own unique mix of botanicals. One of the most original of the group I tried was **Hendrick's Gin ($41.95 - $41.99)** from Scotland.

Not only does its bottle set it apart from the pack (it looks like it would have held medicine a few centuries ago); its combination of ingredients is enhanced by the infusion of mashed cucumber and the oil pressed from Bulgarian rose pedals.

Tasty enough to drink over ice without the tonic, the addition of the bitter, bubbly water releases some major aromatics that had me pining for a full glass and a hot, lazy afternoon.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.

Peter Rockwell is the everyman's wine writer, working in the liquor industry for more than 25 years and travelling the globe looking for something to fill his glass and put into words.

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It's funny looking ... and delicious
Beer Can Chicken started as a fad on the barbecue circuit, but it is shaping up to become a classic. You grill the bird upright by ramming a can of beer into the cavity. The booze bubbles and steams to turn the meat juicy, while the skin, coated with spices, gets crispy. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Oh yeah? Eat this, ex-boyfriends

The Happy Baker: A Dater's Guide to Emotional Baking is a collection of recipes — most of which are unique to Erin Bolger's rural upbringing — matched with her own personal dating stories.

Each story is accompanied by Erin's easy-to-follow favourite recipes; some passed down from family and others her own twist on originals. All are tried, tested, true. She may not have always followed her Mom's dating advice, but she did follow her Mom's baking instructions, which always had a happy ending.

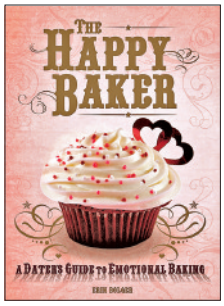
The Happy Baker: A Dater's Guide to Emotional Baking is available in select Chapters locations (call your local bookstore to check) and online at thehappybakerchick.com.

In the meantime, Metro borrowed this sumptuous (and sassy) recipe from the Happy Baker herself, just for a taste of revenge:

Revenge never tasted this sweet

JASON HENRY

Anyone who has had heartbreak will find solace in The Happy Baker, a cookbook that combines dating woes with delicious recipes — such as You Can Kiss My Triple Decker Carrot Cake Goodbye.



You Can Kiss My Triple Decker Carrot Cake Goodbye

It isn't yours for the taking anymore.

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 ½ tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 ½ cups vegetable oil
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups finely grated carrots
- 1 can crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 cup walnuts, chopped
- 1 cup coconut

METHOD:

Preheat oven to 350 F (175 C) Grease and flour three 9-inch round cake pans.

In a large mixing bowl sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, and cinnamon.

Add sugar, oil and eggs; mix together for 3 minutes with a hand mixer.

Stir in carrots, pineapple, chopped nuts, and coconut.

Pour into prepared pans. Bake in preheated oven for 35 minutes or until centre is set.

Cream Cheese Icing

INGREDIENTS:

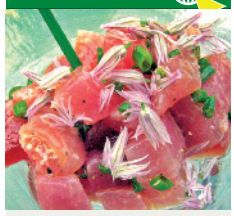
- ½ cup butter, softened
- 8 oz. package cream cheese, softened
- 500 g. icing sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- ¼ cup toasted coconut for decorating

METHOD:

Cream together the butter and cream cheese. Add the vanilla. Stir in the icing sugar.

Spread evenly on the top of the first layer, add the second layer, spread evenly on that layer. Add third layer spread icing evenly all over cake. Spinkle with toasted coconut. Refrigerate.

On the web



Global Peasant:

- Travel along with Diane Thompson's culinary adventures in her Global Peasant blog.
- Visit metronews.ca/globalpeasant for a recipe of Tuna Tartar.

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Time to Tango
On Thursday, Oct. 1, Discover Your Inner Tango with Wines of Argentina takes place. Over 25 wineries will be on hand for your tasting pleasure, many of which are not yet available at B.C. liquor stores. Tickets $59 through winesofargentina.ca starting Aug. 21. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Urban Foodie

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Irashai reworks simple into sublime

ANYA LEVYKH
anya.levykh@gmail.com

Irashai Grill
1368 West Pender St.
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604-688-8697
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Signature Drink:
Nigori Genshu Sake
Signature Dish:
Inaniwa Nabe Udon
Rating: ●●●●½
Dinner & drinks for 2: $80

Irashai Grill has been open for about a year, and has somehow missed much of the media radar. It can't be the location (Coal Harbour). And it's a lovely space.

Maybe it's the menu, which, at first glance, didn't seem to promise much out of the ordinary. Rolls, teriyaki, sashimi, udon ... nothing revolutionary here. Then we began to order and realized that God is in the details.

Kawahagi ($8) was a chewy, addictive starter of barbecued skin of file fish, sided with slightly spicy mayo.

Beef tataki ($10) was beautiful not-so-thin slices of rare, seared meat. In fact, these were slightly on the thick side, and we loved it, especially with the garlic and green onion ponzu. Red tuna carpaccio ($12) was fresh and tangy, with drizzles of mayo, bonito soy and more green onion.

For mains we turned to sashimi, starting with the special, aji ($16), a type of Japanese mackerel.

The presentation was impeccable and the best part came when the head and tail that garnished our plate were taken away to be fried up crisp before coming back to our waiting chompers. Waste not, want not ... although I definitely want more of this.

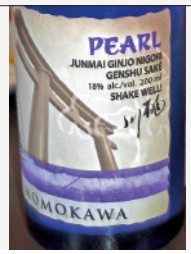
On the web

- Read the full article online at metronews.ca/vancouver/columnist/40411.
- Chew more on Anya's blog at metronews.ca/vancouver/blog/136310.

ANYA LEVYKH/FOR METRO VANCOUVER
Japanese mackerel sashimi at Irashai.

A Pearl Among Sakes

Located in Forest Grove, Oregon, Sake One is currently the only U.S.-based sake maker. Their Momokawa Pearl Nigori Genshu Premium brew is an "old-school," roughly filtered pure rice sake, milled to 60 per cent. The milky liquid is definitely on the sweeter side, with notes of vanilla and coconut. Pair it with steak, barbecue or sweet berry desserts. BCLS $22.99.



Dining out

BRITS IN DA HOUSE
On Aug. 31, U.K. chef Richard Neat will be the guest chef at former protégé Warren Geraghty's current home, West Restaurant (2881 Granville St.). The two chefs will prepare a seven-course collaborative menu. Tickets $138. Call 604-738-8938 for reservations.

BLUES, BREWS AND BBQ
On Sept. 2, Hamilton Street Grill (1009 Hamilton St.) will be offering a "beefed up" beer-inspired dinner featuring barbecue, beers from R & B Brewing, and live music. Tickets $60. Call 604-331-1511 for reservations and information.

In brief

THE DIRTY Apron Cooking School, brought to you by the good folks at Chambar, has now opened its doors at 540 Beatty St. Come one, come all ...

THE CHEFS' Table Society of B.C. will be releasing their second collaborative cookbook on Oct. 17. Vancouver Cooks 2 will feature recipes from more than 70 top B.C. chefs. Pre-order soon.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

CAPONES
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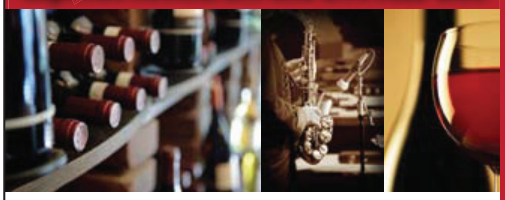

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Style

ELLE Canada's fall fashion special! The top looks, how to wear them, and where to buy them!

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

THE SUIT
Modern power dressing

SLIM

Polyester and rayon blazer and skirt, Fullcircle ($195 and $125, 1-866-240-2808)

BOYISH

Stretch-wool blazer and pants ($240 and $124, at Banana Republic)

PETITE

Polyester and viscose blazer and skirt, RW&CO. ($88 and $48, rw-co.com)

ADVICE Choose a tailored, single- or double-breasted style in matte or shiny menswear fabrics, such as flannel, tweed or wool. The silhouette should be a classic cut with a sharp, defined shoulder.

HOW TO WEAR IT Reinventing the suit just got easy: Slip on a classic turtleneck and top it off with a luxe fur wrap. Sexy ankle boots finish the look.

Editors' Pick

($160, at Swarovski Gallery locations)

A THOUSAND CUTS Literal? Sure. But Swarovski's Heroe Pendant Sword makes your intentions clear.

DRY CLEANING

"Dry shampoo is a great way to prolong a blow-dry," says Beni Sicilia, artistic director at The Blowdry Lounge in Toronto, "but it won't work miracles. You can't go to hot yoga and then use dry shampoo and expect it to work." Sicilia suggests applying it a day after your blowout, or when the hair starts to stick together at the roots.

Ojon Rub-Out Dry Cleansing Powder ($27).

Family drama

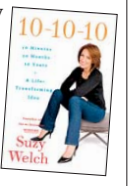
Emily VanCamp braces herself for another round with the Walkers

By **NOREEN FLANAGAN**
Executive Editor

Even Emily VanCamp has trouble keeping up with the various dramas unfolding in the famously flawed Walker family on the popular ABC drama Brothers and Sisters. The 23-year-old actress from Port Perry, Ont., plays Rebecca, a young woman who was initially thought to be the love child of William Walker and his secret mistress. Shortly after DNA disproved that, she fell in love with Justin — a man she thought was her half-brother. By the close of the third season, the two were engaged. Phew!

"Rebecca has a history of acting out and being very extreme," says VanCamp. "By the end of last season, she had calmed down a bit, but we'll see a shift. There's a big twist to the story, but I'm not allowed to say what it is!" Although she has lived and breathed her character for the past few years, VanCamp says that she's nothing like Rebecca. "You can't let your characters bleed into your own life," she says laughing. "That said, I think that the one character closest to me was Amy on Everwood. I was very connected to her emotionally."

SUZY SAYS



Author Suzy Welch developed a decision-making tool she calls "10-10-10." Her formula is this: For any decision, ask yourself what the outcome of your choice would be in the next 10 minutes, the next 10 months and the next 10 years. The first two are usually easy; the last is the hardest, but you have to work with the info you have at hand. Her book is filled with examples from her own life, as well as anecdotes about decisions others have faced using 10-10-10.

Kenya's Style

Kenya Hunt
Exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

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Rehab the musical?
Amy Winehouse's life could be turned into a musical. The troubled singer's brother Alex Winehouse believes a stage production focusing on their battle with drink, drugs and her failed marriage to Blake Fielder-Civil is a serious possibility. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

Striptease
Channing Tatum used to be a stripper. A sexy video of the then-18-year-old G.I. Joe: Rise of the Cobra star performing a striptease in a Florida nightclub has been leaked online. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Dan Mangan makes nice

Vancouver's Dan Mangan displays impressive range on his sophomore album Nice, Nice, Very Nice.

Dan **Mangan**

Album: Nice, Nice, Very Nice
Label: File Under: Music
Rating: ●●●½

VANCOUVER'S DAN MANGAN has quietly been building a name for himself since releasing his debut in 2007, but expect the chatter to increase in volume with this new release. If you like The Weakerthans or early Hawskley Workman, you'll love this record. It's all well crafted singer-songwriter stuff with impressive range. Mangan is able to move from the incredibly infectious sing-a-long Robots to the sensitive John K. Samson-ish The Indie Queens are Waiting with ease. If anything, he sounds a little too much like some of his influences but with such strong material, no one will care.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Mindy **Smith**

Album: Stupid Love
Label: Vanguard
Rating: ●●●●

MINDY SMITH IS a Long Island, N.Y., singer-songwriter who a few years back looked ready to become the next "alt-country" queen with her well-received cover of Dolly Parton's Jolene. On her new CD, Mindy dodges the "roots" bullet by moving her music into — excuse the terminology — the upscale environs of "adult-alternative." To Canadians, that means a sound uncannily like our own Kathleen Edwards, which is a very good thing indeed. Ironically, it was Edwards who, not too many years ago, was unfairly being touted as the next alt-country queen, a Canadian version of Lucinda Williams. It's nice that the Americans have finally come up with someone who can be compared with Kathleen Edwards. But great songwriting is what it is, defying categorization and deserving an audience.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Gloriana

Album: Gloriana
Label: Emblem/Warner
Rating: ●●●

JUST WHAT NASHVILLE needed — four fresh-faced kids who sing sweet harmonies and fill out their jeans real fine. Two girls and two guys. The guys, of course, happen to be brothers (from Utica, N.Y., no less). The girls, of course, are both gorgeous. Not that this is a formula band. We're quite prepared to accept the explanation that they all met up in a bar one night and ... well. With the help of Matchbox 20 producer Matt Serletic, they've put out a rather pleasing country/pop album that at times sounds eerily close to Rumours-era Fleetwood Mac (there were two girls and three guys in that band which, of course, only caused trouble). Although, it tends toward saccharine at times, the music on this debut CD is hard to dislike. It would be nice to hear more songs from the group members. The one track written by them, Time To let Me Go, happens to be one of the strongest on the CD.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Black **Mold**

Album: Snow Blindness is Crystal Antz
Label: Flemish Eye
Rating: ●●●●

IT'S RARE THAT an artist is as celebrated as much for his passionate folk tunes as he is for his ambient musical soundscapes, but that's what's happened to Calgary's Chad VanGaalen. His last album leaned more towards the former than the latter, so it's not surprising that he's released an entire album of weird, quirky sounds with nary a vocal melody around. Playing under the name Black Mold, VanGaalen delivers a strong set of Nintendo-like bleeps, sweeping keyboards and spacey electro sounds. Like his previous instrumental work, this is nearly as catchy and melodic as his more straightforward tunes.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Music**Reviews**

music@metronews.ca

Cobra **Starship**

Album: Hot Mess
Label: FueledbyRamen/Warner
Rating: ●

BAD THINGS HAPPEN when the corporate machine decides to produce an "edgy" album. Real bad. Surely there are other messages we could be delivering to our children other than how much girls enjoy being rolled in crap ("treat 'em like dirt, they'll stick forever to the bottom of your shoe"). The fact that Gossip Girls star Leighton Meester is involved in the first single, Good Girls Go Bad, makes it all the more repulsive. Just what is American Idol judge Kara DioGuardi doing writing for these guys? Buy this, attach it to the bottom of your shoe and give it all the respect it deserves.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Listen to this week's reviewed music at metronews.ca/music

Phish ready to deliver new album

Trey Anastasio

MUSIC Reunited jam band Phish will release Joy, its eleventh studio album and first in five years, on Sept. 8, the band has announced on its website.

On Joy, recorded earlier this year at Chung King Studios in New York, the group joins forces with producer Steve Lillywhite for 10 new songs, many of which were debuted live during the band's return to the stage this spring and summer.

Fans who had the opportunity to catch Phish during their first proper comeback tour got a taste of nine new tunes, when they showcased swinging blues riffs on Kill Devil Hills, interplays between guitarist Trey Anastasio and pianist Page McConnell during Ocelot and the long, winding, jam-friendly Light. Only I've Been Around has yet to make its live debut.

In addition to a CD, Phish is selling a limited-edition Joy Box, a deluxe package available exclusively on the band's own website, Phish Dry Goods. REUTERS

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The Time Traveler's Wife
IN THEATRES AUGUST 14

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Another Flowers child

Brandon Flowers has become a father for the second time. The Killers rocker and his wife Tana welcomed their second son Gunner into the world last week, and mother and baby are both doing well. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Rourke takes The Wrestler to Sarajevo

FILM FEST The Sarajevo Film Festival opened yesterday, 15 years after it was launched as an act of defiance at the end of the 1992-95 Bosnian war and the siege of the city.

The most famous visitor will be Mickey Rourke, who will help present The Wrestler. Tales from the Golden Age by Cristian Mungiu, the first Romanian director to win the Palme d'Or at Cannes, was to kick off the festival. REUTERS

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Kudrow gets serious in Bandslam

But actress prefers to work — and live — on the flakier side

HEIDI PATALANO
Metro World News

Ask Friends veteran Lisa Kudrow how she prepared for her role in Bandslam, and the subject of Rock Band — the omnipresent and much-loved video game — immediately comes up.

"Rock Band? Oh honey, I got it. We played it. It's done. It's over," she says without hesitation.

"Did I just say 'Oh honey'? Where am I from?"

That's the brand of Kudrow humour that has carried the veteran actress through dozens of supporting roles. Despite what you might think, she'd much rather play second fiddle than take centre stage.

"The hardest times I've had are when I've had to be a romantic figure," she says, noting that primary characters often have the burden of achieving universal likeability while supporting characters can get away with being a bit weird.

"For me, it's such a challenge to make someone who is potentially really unlikable, likeable. I have a lot of fun with that."

For her turn in Bandslam, Kudrow plays the protective mom to a teenager making his way at a new school — a sobering contrast to some of actress' ditzier characters.

Kudrow credits her spacier characters for her success and that makes sense, since her roles as Ursula in Mad About You and as Phoebe in Friends are what made her a star — but being flaky also helped her cope with success.

"I used to be very, very serious about things and it really made me let go of a lot of things, to be honest with you. It helps because you know, you're not a threat when you're stupid," she says. "You know how people say that smart women aren't that likeable? I honestly do think it's true."

What about Oprah, we ask? "You make a good point," the star admits. "I guess it's just me. I have trouble with people.".

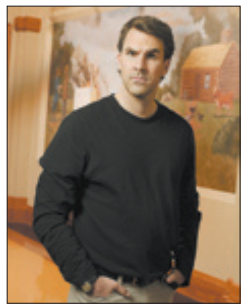
Bandslam opens in theatres tomorrow

Lisa Kudrow in a scene from Bandslam.

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 8/13/09	251	308	3 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy!	India Reborn (CC)				CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6 JOY	E! News (N)	The Insider	Name Is Earl	'Til Death (N)	True Hollywood Story (N)		The Beast (N) (CC)		News
	254	-	8 M	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		Metropia
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Hollywood	CSI: NY "Bad Beat" (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		The Listener (N)		News
	-	-	10 OMNI	The Daily	Frasier (CC)	On the Buses	Keeping Up	Supernatural (CC)		Scrubs (CC)	Diya (CC)	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Big Brother 11 (CC)		The Office	The Office	House "The Right Stuff"		News
	256	389	12 VI	The Road to Avonlea		Greek "Spring Broke" (CC)		Grey's Anatomy (CC)		(:02) Private Practice (CC)		A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Be a Millionaire		30 Rock	30 Rock	Law & Order: UK (CC)		The CityNews
	-	-	14 CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	Supernatural (CC)		Supernatural (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Big Brother 11 (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(:01) The Mentalist (CC)		KIRO News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	30 Rock	Parks-Recreat	The Office	(:31) 30 Rock	Law & Order "Pledge" (CC)		KING 5 News
	602	568	19 W	Style by Jury	Friends (CC)	Divine Design	House	Confidential	House	Divine Design	Love It-List It	House
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Be a Millionaire		Grey's Anatomy (CC)		(:02) Private Practice (CC)		KOMO 4 News
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	Say Anything... ★★★ (1989) John Cusack, Ione Skye.				King	Still Standing	Scrubs (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	Steves Europe	Field Guide	Doc Martin "Blood Is Thicker"		Lost in Austen (CC)		Ballet Shoes (2007, Drama) Emma Watson.		
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bones "Mayhem on a Cross"		House "Last Resort" (CC)		Q13 FOX News at Ten (N)		Family Guy
	-	364	45 PBS	Motown -- The Definitive Performances (My Music) (CC)				Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		UltraMind Solution-Depress	
	296	654	64 SBK	(:01) The Mentalist (CC)		Punk'd (CC)	South Park	Cheers (CC)	Half & Half	Paid Program	Family Court	Paid Program
	298	653	65 TLA	NFL Preseason Football Dallas Cowboys at Oakland Raiders. (Live) (CC)						KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	66 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	67 WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	According-Jim	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Odd Couple
	199	311	76 STR	News	NTV Latenight News		Late Show-Letterman		Will & Grace	Late Late Show		(:07) Seinfeld
news	502	390	26 NW	The Nature of Things (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things (CC)		National
	500	500	93 CNN	(6:00) Generation Islam (N)		Generation Islam				Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Generation Isl.
sports	407	419	22 RSP	MLB Baseball New York Yankees at Seattle Mariners. From Safeco Field in Seattle. (Live)						Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	CFL Football Calgary Stampeders at Edmonton Eskimos.				SportsCentre	NASCAR Racing		Motoring 2009	SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Ghost Hunters (CC)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman (CC)		Ghost Hunters (CC)		Bounty Hunter
	410	403	54 SCR	Score Tonight		Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score
	417	406	55 SC	Wrecked (N)	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out		Jacked!	Jacked!	Wrecked
	416	409	144 GLF	MLS Weekly	Ole: La Liga		Gol TV News	Toronto-Today	Off the Pitch	Gol TV News	Gol TV News	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	Drake & Josh	Family Biz	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	In Real Life (CC)		Falcon Beach (CC) (DVS)		Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50 TEL	Jimmy Two	Total Drama	6TEEN (CC)	6TEEN	Futurama	Akira ★★★ (1988) Voices of Mitsuo Iwata, Nozomu Sasaki.			
	557	541	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	53 TRE	Comfy Couch	Zigby	Max & Ruby	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Ni Hao	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Recreat. Eden	Into the Wild	Africa "Voices of the Forest"		How Art Made the World		World of Albert Kahn		Talk-Canadian
	575	583	20 CMT	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Tuckerville	Backstage	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith
	570	580	24 MM	Dance Crew	Degrassi: TNG	One Tree Hill (CC)		America's Best Dance Crew			Shot at Love-Tila	Tequila
	600	564	25 H&G	House	House	Holmes on Homes (CC)		Disaster DIY	Big Amazing	Handyman Superstar		House
	615	520	31 A&E	Crime 360 (N) (CC)		Crime 360 "Nowhere to Run"		The First 48 "Blindsided"		The First 48 (CC)		Crime 360
	628	584	32 SPKE	(6:00) TNA iMPACT! (N)		Scariest Police Chases 2		MANswers	GameTrailers	MANswers	MANswers	MXC
	521	560	33 TLC	LA Ink (N) (CC)		Police Women of Broward		LA Ink (CC)		Lottery Changed My Life		LA Ink (CC)
	616	522	53 SHO	The Outer Limits (CC)		Love-Death	Love-Death	Criminal Intent (2005) Linda Purl, Vanessa Angel. (CC)				House (CC)
	620	523	40 BVO	Apprentice	Bravonews	Law & Order (CC)		Without a Trace "Safe" (CC)		The In Crowd ★★ (1988) Donovan Leitch.		
	601	562	41 SLC	Bulging Brides	Bulging Brides	ET Canada	Til Debt-Part	Real Housewives OC		Trading Spouses		Biggest Loser
	520	505	42 DIS	MythBusters Baseball myths.		Blue Realm "Shark Divers"		Mighty Ships (CC)		Somali Pirate Takedown		MythBusters
	522	506	44 HIS	NCIS "Bury Your Dead"		Ancient Discoveries (CC)		Unlocking the Past (CC)		NCIS "Bury Your Dead"		Sea Hunters
	627	528	45 SPC	(6:00) Alien Agent (2007) (CC)		Stargate SG-1 (CC) (DVS)		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Star Trek: Voyager "Equinox"		Star Trek: Ent.
	294	650	57 TBS	Doom ★★ (2005) (PA) The Rock, Karl Urban. (CC)				Sex and-City	Sex and-City	(:10) Nacho Libre ★★ (2006) (PA) Jack Black.		
	619	525	48 TROP	Traders (CC)		Inside Hollywood (CC)		Deal or No Deal Canada		Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	603	561	52 FN	Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Boys	The Wild Chef	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Jamie's Kitchen (CC)		Ace of Cakes
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Comedy Now	Comedy Now	Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:25) Bee Movie ★★ (2007)		Forgetting Sarah Marshall ★★★ (2008) Jason Segel. (CC)				Penn & Teller	Nurse Jackie	The Line
	581	566	101 MTV	Beatdown	Beatdown	MTV Live	After	The Real World (CC)		Beatdown	Beatdown	MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Nothing Too Good		Poltergeist: The Legacy		Nothing Too Good for a Cowboy ★★ (1998) Chad Willett.				Paid Program
	-	-	105 MUL	Banquet	Kingdom-Wind	Vancouver	Bahadur-Zafar	Dheeyan Ghar	Sadabahar	Rang Barangi	Desi Rhythms	Patrol World

critics'corner

Parks and Recreation
Talking to the media does get easier with practice. Leslie (Amy Poehler) invites a reporter to do a story on the park project, but the interview doesn't go well — and it gets worse when she calls in Mark (Paul Schneider) to help. Tom (Aziz Ansari) attempts to score some points with his boss (Nick Offerman). Rashida Jones also stars in "The Reporter." 8:30 PM on NBC



The Mentalist
There's an art to solving crimes, as Patrick (Simon Baker) demonstrates when a $50 million painting is stolen from a tycoon's office, and his son-in-law is found dead nearby. The "obvious" analysis is that the victim was in on the robbery, but Patrick has several other possible suspects in mind. Robin Tunney, Tim Kang, Owain Yeoman and Amanda Righetti also star in "Paint It Red." 7:01 PM on SBK

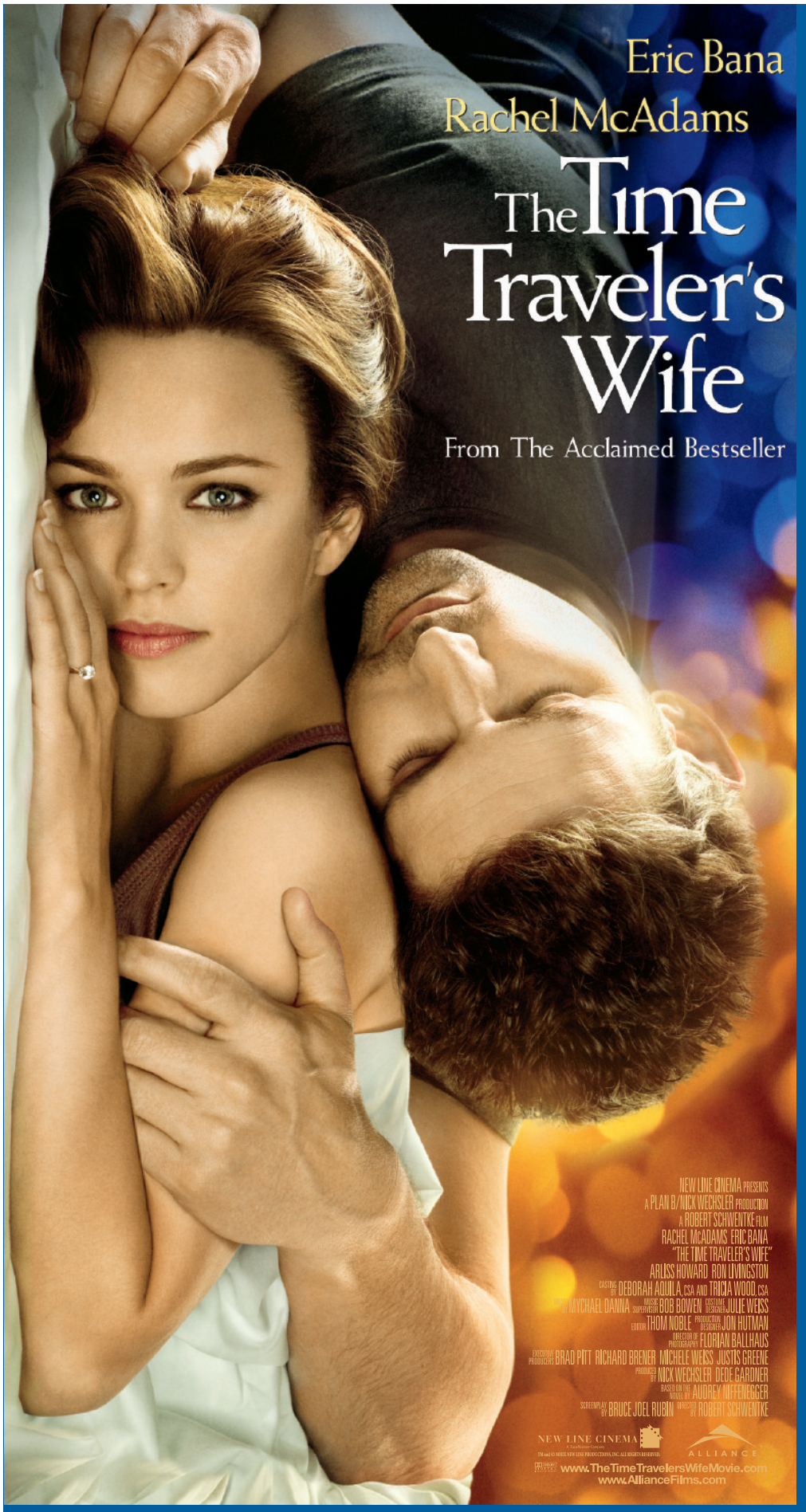
Lego movie is in the works

FILM Warner Bros. is building a Lego movie. The studio and producer Dan Lin have acquired theatrical rights for a motion picture based on the timeless toy, and hired writers Dan and Kevin Hageman to pen the script. The live-action/CG-animated movie project is described as being set in the world of Lego. It will centre on the idea of a child-like imagination and examine themes of creativity and teamwork in the manner of Toy Story.

In brief

CASTING Oz alumnus Ernie Hudson has joined NBC's drama series Heroes in the recurring role of Captain Lubbock, a Baltimore detective. As usual, the show's producers are keeping story-line details under wraps, but it is understood that Lubbock is on the hunt for one of the other characters on the show.

ADAPTATION In its biggest development deal to date, cable network AMC has acquired the rights to Robert Kirkman's popular comic book The Walking Dead for a potential series. Frank Darabont (The Shawshank Redemption) is on board to write, direct and executive produce the project. REUTERS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ALLIANCE

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Paula leaves Idol door open

Paula Abdul hasn't completely closed the door on returning to American Idol. The former judge reportedly will return to the show if producers agree to pay her $10 million US a season, according to TMZ. **METRO WORLD NEWS**

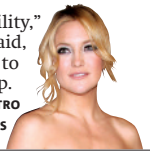
Celebrity Buzz

Kate wants a baby with A-Rod?

RUSHING THINGS? Kate Hudson, who has five-year-old son Ryder, reportedly wants to have a child with Alex Rodriguez.

"She wants Ryder to have a sibling, so she brought up the idea to Alex and told him that they would make a beautiful baby together, and that she would assume all financial responsibility," a source said, according to Hollyscoop.

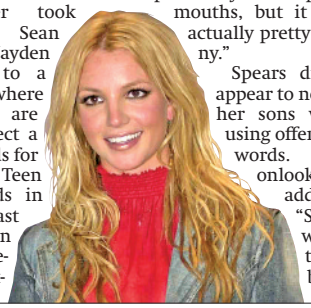
METRO WORLD NEWS



Spears kids have potty mouths?

SOAP NEEDED Britney Spears' sons shocked onlookers by swearing in public, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer took three-year-old Sean Preston and Jayden James, two, to a swag suite — where invited guests are invited to select a variety of goods for free — for the Teen Choice Awards in Los Angeles last weekend when the boys repeatedly shouted "oh s—!"



One onlooker told the New York Daily News newspaper: "We were all surprised by their potty mouths, but it was actually pretty funny."

Spears didn't appear to notice her sons were using offensive words. The onlooker added: "She was too busy picking out freebies to chastise the boys for misbehaving."

Spears, 27, has previously spoken about her children cursing, claiming they picked up the foul phrases from their father, her ex-husband Kevin Federline.

She said: "The boys are starting to learn words like 'stupid,' and Preston says the F-word now sometimes. He doesn't get it from us. He must get it from his daddy. I say it, but not around my kids."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Brangie spill sexy secrets

TOO MUCH INFORMATION Last week Brad Pitt sent tongues wagging when he told Parade that the secret stone grotto behind the waterfall in his pool is "a great place for sex." Now, his partner Angelina Jolie says that's not their only secret hideaway, us-magazine.com reports.

"Yeah, well, we got a few special places," she told Extra on the red carpet at Pitt's Inglourious Basterds premiere in Hollywood. "You keep it going."

Added Pitt, "It's not true. We have far more comfortable places to go. There is a grotto there. It's an old Hollywood property... just a few minutes that way... and rumour is Jimi Hendrix spent some time there. That's the story. I run with it."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES

Stars gather to mourn John Hughes

REMEMBERING A GREAT Actors Vince Vaughn, Matthew Broderick and Ben Stein were among the family and friends who attended a private funeral Tuesday in a Chicago suburb for the late director John Hughes, usmagazine.com reports.

Stein, who famously played Ferris Bueller's teacher in the '80s classic comedy, was one of the speakers at the service.

"We'll never see his like again," Stein told reporters after the service. "He was the Wordsworth of the suburban America post-war generation. He was a great, great, great genius and as much of a friend and a great family man as he was a poet."

After the service, mourners gathered in a procession to a Lake Forest cemetery, where Hughes was to be laid to rest.

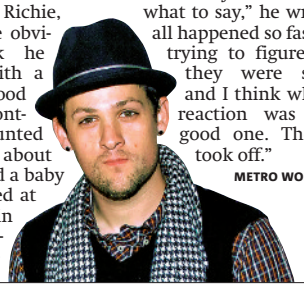
Hughes, known for such teen classics as Sixteen Candles and The Breakfast Club, died of a heart attack Aug. 6. He was 59.

Molly Ringwald, star of Sixteen Candles, said "he will be missed — by me and by everyone that he has touched," she said in a statement after his death. "My heart and all my thoughts are with his family now." **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

For sale: One baby

THE SURREAL While Joel Madden eagerly awaits the birth of his second child with Nicole Richie, some people obviously think he could do with a third. The Good Charlotte frontman recounted on Twitter about being offered a baby while stopped at a red light in his car. "Today some people in traffic tried to sell me a baby. A live human baby. I didn't know what to say," he wrote. "It all happened so fast. I was trying to figure out if they were serious, and I think when my reaction was not a good one. They just took off."

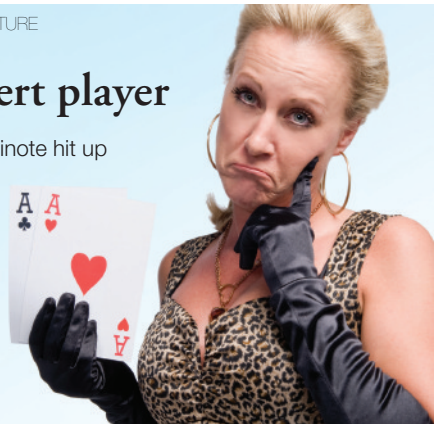
METRO WORLD NEWS



ADVERTISING FEATURE

Hinote 'in synch' with expert player

According to an unidentified source, pop star Itza Hinote hit up his favourite player last night, but it's not what you think. The sexy singer was seen canoodling with Pacific Hold'em expert Cynthia during a recent visit to PlayNow.com. "They're so in synch and make a great pair," said a friend of Cynthia, who wished to remain anonymous. "I'm so jealous." A text message from Cynthia reads, "Cry me a river!"



Disclaimer: All names are the products of the author's imagination. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

Paris and Doug make up

IT'S BACK ON Doug Reinhardt knows just what to do to get back in Paris Hilton's good graces: Rent a private island in Fiji.

"Love Wadigi Island, had the most incredible stay," Hilton posted on Twitter after returning from a visit with Reinhardt. "It is true paradise, so beautiful and private. It's the perfect place to vacation."

And friends say Reinhardt's attempt to rekindle things with his ex is working great. "She loves being treated like a princess so she can feel how deeply in love he is with her, and she's having a blast," a source told the Sun.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Pacific Hold'em Poker is the Texas Hold'em themed lottery game that you can now play online!

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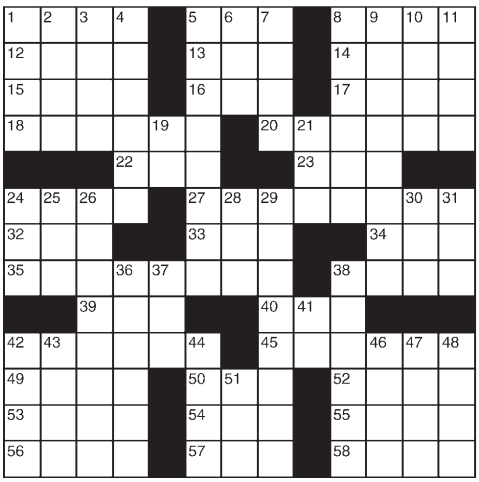
Take Five



Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

7	1		8	3	9			
								2
	8	6	1			3		
4				7				1
		7				9		
8				4				3
		4			1	2	6	
2								
			4	5	2		8	9

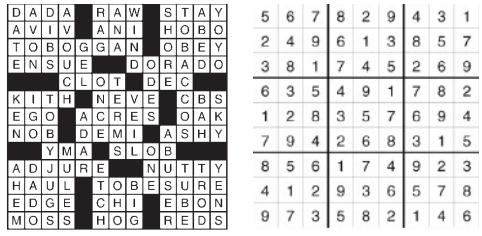
ACROSS

1 Bridge coup
5 — de deux
8 Grand tale
12 Caffeine-rich nut
13 Every crumb
14 Doily feature
15 On the rocks
16 Actor Stephen
17 Press
18 Everest guide
20 Empty
22 Have something wrong
23 Accomplished
24 Satan's minions
27 Kiss reminder
32 Earl Grey, e.g.
33 Actress Mendes
34 That woman
35 Baby carriage
38 Check
39 Honest politician?
40 Mimic
42 Kidnapper's demand
45 "You Can't — Again"
49 Clarinet's cousin
50 Flightless bird
52 Mideast airline
53 Mainlanders' mementos
54 Vast expanse
55 Ostentatious display
56 Stats for 52-Across
57 Whatever number
58 Carry

DOWN

1 Vail gear
2 Ness, e.g.
3 Sheltered
4 Curtain fabric
5 Lines that fail to meet
6 Hearty brew
7 Balkan native
8 Bring out
9 Eden
10 PC picture
11 Small change
19 Circumference divided by diameter
21 Billboards
24 "Monty Python" opener
25 Citi Field player
26 Excessive suspiciousness
28 "— Got a Secret"
29 Brazil neighbour
30 Greek X
31 Understanding
36 Haunt
37 Writer Buscaglia
38 Prepare leftovers
41 One of the Teletubbies
42 Portrayal
43 Lend an illegal hand
44 Small plateau
46 Hodgepodge
47 Shoppers' site
48 Differently
51 Chaps

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



5	6	7	8	2	9	4	3	1
2	4	9	6	1	3	8	5	7
3	8	1	7	4	5	2	6	9
6	3	5	4	9	1	7	8	2
1	2	8	3	5	7	6	9	4
7	9	4	2	6	8	3	1	5
8	5	6	1	7	4	9	2	3
4	1	2	9	3	6	5	7	8
9	7	3	5	8	2	1	4	6

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

SARAH POMPER

Smoked Salmon, Mascarpone and Leek Pizza

Submitted by Jennifer Rigby, St. Catharines, Ont.

INGREDIENTS:

Fresh pizza dough (I buy mine at an Italian market, or make it yourself)
1 large leek, washed and green portions chopped
2 tbsp olive oil
175 g mascarpone cheese (use about 3/4 of container)
150 g package of frozen sliced wild smoked salmon, thawed
Salt and pepper

METHOD:

Using 1 tbsp oil, sauté leeks in frying pan until soft. Set aside. Roll out dough onto pizza pan. Using remaining oil, coat surface of dough.

Cover dough with sautéed leeks. Then place smoked salmon on top of leeks. I like to slightly overlap the triangular pieces of salmon so it looks like a pinwheel. In the areas not covered by the salmon, using a tablespoon, add toonie-sized dollops of mascarpone cheese. Season with salt and pepper.

Bake at 350 F until crust is cooked and cheese is melted. Enjoy with a green salad and a glass of white wine.

SERVES 4
PREP TIME: 20 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 20 MINUTES

Weekly winners

• Exclusive contest for Metro readers! Visit 20minutesupperclub.com/metro and be entered to win a $50 President's Choice gift certificate to stock your cupboards with delicious PC products. For product information and store locations, visit PC.ca. A weekly winner will be drawn from now until the end of October.

20 minute SUPPER CLUB

20 Minute Supper Club helps you get dinner ready in a snap. Sign up for quick and delicious recipes, cooking and food tips. It's free at **20minutesupperclub.com**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Bring a half-hidden problem into the open where it can be discussed and dealt with. Today's cosmic set-up suggests all will be happy with the result.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A page has been turned but you're not at the end of the story. What happens today and tomorrow will encourage you to keep on reading — and loving.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
An obstacle will appear in your path today and your first reaction will be to smash through it. That's the right thing to do. This is no time to be subtle.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
If you let your suspicions get the better of you today you could miss out on an enjoyable activity. The planets indicate there's no need to be defensive

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
It doesn't matter that you fought with certain folks in the past. All that matters is you're on the same side now — and if you're not, you should be.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
You may think you know what is good for others, but they must learn from their own mistakes. When others tried to tell you how to live, did you listen?

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You'll have plenty to say for yourself today and, being such a smooth-talker, you will say it in a way that leaves no doubt as to what you mean.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
You need to get to grips with a situation that has drifted on for weeks, months, maybe years. Likely it will mean having to make an unpopular decision.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Today you'll have courage to make difficult decisions and take the kind of risks even a Sagittarius would usually seek to avoid. But don't overdo it.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
If your current environment doesn't feel right then by all means get up and go some place else. There's no law that says you have to stay.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Mars and Jupiter, the planets that get things done, cut across the most dynamic angles of your chart today. Aim to start your day early and finish it late.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Sometimes you lose direction and forget what all your efforts are for. Today, though, your aims are crystal clear. Keep that clarity as long as you can.

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THE AFTER 5 EVENT

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